

What Is Claimed Is:

1. A method for controlling an internal combustion engine, comprising:
controlling a fuel injection using a control element, the fuel injection being divided into at least a first partial injection and a second partial injection, a start of triggering of the second partial injection taking place a preselected first time period after an end of triggering of the first partial injection.
2. The method according to claim 1, wherein the first time period is preselected such that a start of pump delivery of the second partial injection takes place a preselected second time period after the end of triggering of the first partial injection.
3. The method according to claim 2, wherein the first time period is a function of at least one closing time of the control element and the second time period.
4. The method according to claim 2, wherein the second time period is a function of at least a speed.
5. The method according to claim 2, further comprising correcting at least one of a triggering duration and an end of triggering of the second partial injection as a function of the start of pump delivery.
6. The method according to claim 5, wherein the correction includes the following:
 - learning the start of pump delivery;
 - comparing the learned start of pump delivery to a setpoint start of pump delivery; and
 - performing the correction as a function of the comparison.
7. A device for controlling an internal combustion engine comprising:
a control element for controlling a fuel injection, the fuel injection being divided into at least a first partial injection and a second partial injection; and

means for causing a triggering of the second partial injection to start a preselected time period after a triggering of the first partial injection has ended.